WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device, comprising:

providing a wafer substrate having a surface;

forming a first nitride layer over the wafer substrate;

providing a layer of photoresist over the first nitride layer;

patterning and defining the photoresist layer;

etching the first nitride layer unmasked by the photoresist to remove at least a

portion of the first nitride layer to expose at least a portion of the substrate surface;

removing the photoresist layer; and

depositing a second nitride layer over the first nitride layer and the exposed substrate surface to form a nitride structure having a first thickness and a second thickness, wherein the first thickness includes a thickness of the first nitride layer.

- 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the thickness of the first nitride layer is about 11 angstroms.
- 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the first thickness is greater than a sum of the second thickness and the thickness of the first nitride layer.
- 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the thickness of the first nitride layer is less than about 11 angstroms.

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1300 I Street, NW Washington, DC 20005 202.408.4000 Fax 202.408.4400 www.finnegan.com 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the first nitride layer is grown at a temperature ranging approximately from 700°C to 900°C.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein a difference between the first thickness and the thickness of the first nitride layer is greater than a sum of the second thickness and the thickness of the first nitride layer.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the first thickness is increased by an increase in a growing temperature of the first nitride layer.

8. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device, comprising: providing a wafer substrate having a surface;

forming a first nitride layer over the wafer substrate;

providing a layer of photoresist over the first nitride layer;

patterning and defining the photoresist layer;

etching the first nitride layer unmasked by the photoresist to remove at least a portion of the first nitride layer to expose at least a portion of the substrate surface;

removing the photoresist layer; and

depositing a second nitride layer over the first nitride layer and the exposed substrate surface to form a nitride structure having a first thickness and a second thickness, wherein the first thickness is different from the second thickness.

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- 9. The method of claim 8, wherein the first thickness includes the first nitride layer.
- 10. The method of claim 8, wherein the first nitride layer has a thickness of about 11 angstroms.
- 11. The method of claim 8, wherein the first thickness is greater than a sum of the second thickness and a thickness of the first nitride layer.
- 12. The method of claim 8, wherein the first nitride layer is grown at a temperature ranging approximately from 700°C to 900°C.
- 13. The method of claim 8, wherein the first nitride layer has a thickness of less than about 11 angstroms.
- 14. The method of claim 8, wherein the first thickness is increased by an increase in a growing temperature of the first nitride layer.

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